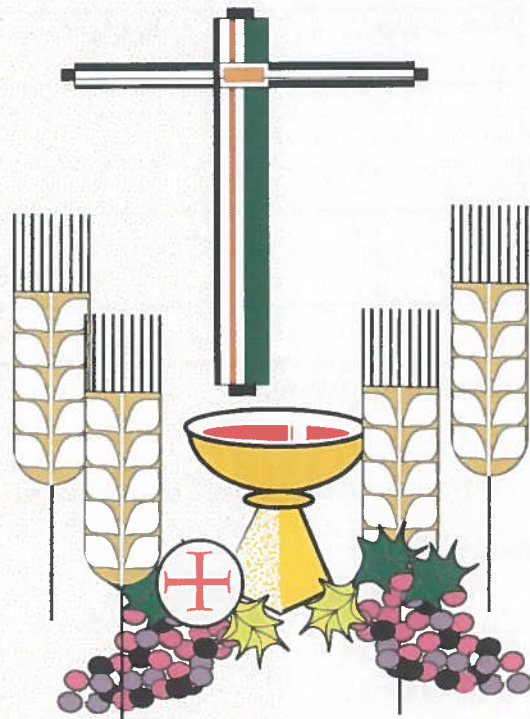


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 3-4, 2024

*You should not
be working for
perishable food
but for food that
remains unto
life eternal,
food which the
Son of Man
will give you;
it is on him that
God has set his seal.*



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Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."

—Mother Teresa

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 10-11, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, August 10 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, August 11 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, August 11 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, August 11 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Bob Schultz Todd Datweiler Dave Emling Dan Hoffman	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Dallas Ferris Dan Forsythe Jeff Steinke Dave Ladeholl	Kim Smicker Sean Riordan Garrett Smolkovich Marko Smolkovich
Lector	Rob Landeck	Cindy Gagnon	Carrie Abrassart	Corinn Wheeler
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Karen Miller	Kim Smicker

A Look Ahead

August 3/4—K of K Food Drive

Sunday, August 11—Free breakfast at SH after Mass

Wed., August 14—Assumption Vigil Mass 7pm at SJ

Thurs., August 15—Assumption Mass 8am at SH 7pm at SMM

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, August 5 (SMM)

8:00 am +Janet & Harley Berer (Mariann Lane)

Tuesday, August 6 (SH)

8:00 an +Darlene Denault (Jackie Cross)

Wednesday, August 7 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, August 9 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, August 10 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, August 11

7:30 am (SH) +Ray Sliwindki and Jerry Mescher (Dorothy Mescher)

9:00am (SJ) +Ted Bernaski (Joe/Carrie Abrassart))

+George Grosso (Theresa Grosso

10:30am (SMM) +Donna Ruder (The Family)

+Rita Deany (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

Collections Week of July 27-28, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,579

St. James—\$1,201

Sacred Heart—\$873

Thank you for your generosity!

Adult Ed

We will be starting adult ed after Labor Day. We will be doing a video series on the 10 Commandments. If you are interested, please call the office (426-2550) and register. Also, please let me know what night of the week works better for you so we can pick a night that works best for the group. I am open to doing Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday sessions.

Gospel Shorts— The Bread of Life

John offers us in the Bread of Life Discourse (Chapter 6) an opportunity to enter into the mind of Jesus. Jesus calls his followers to look past the immediate nature of the world and to see deeper realities. He asks his disciples to look into the meaning of things. The Jews misunderstood and only say the son of a carpenter. For the disciples (for us) we look at Jesus offering himself as Bread ... as food for a starving world in need of new life ... a life only he can offer. Jesus asks us to look at him with the eyes of faith and see, and to become a sharer in that life. As a sharer in the life of Jesus we must, like him, offer ourselves as food for our brothers and sisters. We are his instruments of faith and service.

Gardening Project at St. James the Apostle Parish

A big thank you to all our generous parishioners who contributed to making our gardening project such a big success!

Also, thank you to Father Ron and the Parish Council for their approval and support of the project, Jake Carlile of Carlile Group (renderings), David Kirkpatrick of JD Tree Trimming & Removal (removal of trees, donation, and planting of pear trees), Ron O'Connor of Clean Cut Lawncare (modification of garden layout, plantings, rock replacement and sod), Dallas Ferris (collection of donations & prep of watering system), Reatta Gohlke and Sue Ann O'Connor (endless hours of watering), Larry O'Connor (monitoring and watering sod).

It truly takes collaborative efforts to get a project like this completed.

Question of the week

What have I grumbled about this week on my journey through life? How can the Bread of Life sustain me through a difficulty or hardship like that?

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- Letters of application are now being accepted for the Theresa Fritz Catholic Education Scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year. Applicants must be a parishioner of St. Margaret Mary and attend a Catholic grade or high school or a Catholic university. Please submit a letter to Fr. Ron at the Tri-Parish office explaining which school you are attending and your reason(s) for choosing a Catholic school. Letters need to be received in the office by September 3, 2024.

St. James—

Sacred Heart—

- ♦ The week of August 4th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for Rhonda Harris and the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Vernal Gagnon
- ♦ Sacred Heart C.C.W. will again be participating in the "Boxes of Joy" project this year. We will not be collecting boxes until October, but we will be putting out a list of items you might want to put in them, since many of those items are on sale at this time. Thanks so much for your support.
- ♦ The Sacred Heart CCW will be serving a free breakfast following the 7:30 am Mass August 11. Everyone is welcome! Please join us for a great meal and fellowship.

All Parishes—

- ♦ Due to vacation, fair schedules, etc. there will be no Knights of Columbus meeting in the month of July. Next meeting will be August 26, 2024 at St James at 7:00 PM
- ♦ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ♦ The phone number for the rectory will no longer be in service. All calls should be made to the parish office number 815-426-2550.

Reflections Attitude

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of *attitude* on life. *Attitude*, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company ... a church ... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the *attitude* we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the past ... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our *Attitudes*."

Charles Swindoll

Saint of the week: St. Sixtus II, Pope (Aug. 7) was a philosopher and adult convert to Christianity. He was pope for less than a year.

He dealt with the controversy concerning baptism by heretics. He believed that anyone who was baptized with a desire to be a Christian, even if the baptism was performed by a heretic, was truly baptized into the faith, and that the validity of his faith was based on his own desire and actions, not the errors of the person who performed the sacrament.

While celebrating Mass at the tomb of Saint Callistus, he was arrested as part of the persecutions of Valerian. He was beheaded with six deacons and sub-deacons and was buried in the same catacomb where he had been celebrating Mass when he was arrested.



Obscure Saint of the week: St. Afra of Augsburg (Aug. 7) was a prostitute in Augsburg, Germany. During the Diocletian persecutions, c.303. She and her mother Hilaria hid their bishop from the authorities. While in hiding, he brought them to the faith. Afra devoted herself to working with the poor. Eventually she was ordered to sacrifice to pagan gods; she refused.

When her mother, Saint Hilaria of Augsburg, and the servants Digna, Eunomia and Eprepria went to inter her burned remains in a sepulcher, they were caught by the authorities. The four of them were ordered to make the same sacrifice that Afra had refused. They refused and were burned to death in Afra's sepulcher.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

The next day the crowd that was left behind realized that there had been only one boat, and that Jesus had not gotten into it with his disciples. They had seen them go off without him. By now boats from Tiberias had pulled up near where they had eaten the bread blessed by the Master. So when the crowd realized he was gone and wasn't coming back, they piled into the Tiberias boats and headed for Capernaum, looking for Jesus.

When they found him back across the sea, they said, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus answered, "You've come looking for me not because you saw God in my actions but because I fed you, filled your stomachs—and for free.

"Don't waste your energy striving for perishable food like that. Work for the food that sticks with you, food that nourishes your lasting life, food the Son of Man provides. He and what he does are guaranteed by God the Father to last."

To that they said, "Well, what do we do then to get in on God's works?"

Jesus said, "Throw your lot in with the One that God has sent. That kind of a commitment gets you in on God's works."

They waffled: "Why don't you give us a clue about who you are, just a hint of what's going on? When we see what's up, we'll commit ourselves. Show us what you can do. Moses fed our ancestors with bread in the desert. It says so in the scriptures: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Jesus responded, "The real significance of that scripture is not that Moses gave you bread from heaven but that my Father is right now offering you bread from heaven, the real bread. The Bread of God came down out of heaven and is giving life to the world."

They jumped at that: "Master, give us this bread, now and forever!"

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. The person who aligns with me hungers no more and thirsts no more, ever" (from John 6).



Current Status for 2024 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Sacred Heart	\$6,000	\$7,650	\$6,075
St. MM	\$9,400	\$9,095	\$8,800
St. James	\$8,800	\$7,325	\$7,173



OUR ANCESTORS ATE MANNA IN THE DESERT
JN.6:31

Questions Catholics Ask

Why is being rooted in Peter's authority so important to the Catholic Church?

Peter's a remarkable person in the New Testament. Many people counted themselves as admirers of Jesus for shorter or longer periods during his earthly ministry. Some, both women and men, were serious disciples who accompanied Jesus since the Galilee days. A mere dozen were special members of his inner circle, known as the Twelve. Among the Twelve, three (Peter, James, and John) became Jesus' most trusted friends: present at the Transfiguration, and also invited to pray with him in Gethsemane just before his arrest. Yet even among these favored three, Peter makes a singular impression.

Peter is mentioned nearly 175 times in the New Testament, almost twice as often as John and three times as often as James. Peter is a fisherman personally invited by Jesus to fish for people. In John's gospel, he's called a shepherd of Christ's sheep. In Matthew's narrative, Jesus declares Peter the rock upon which his church will be built. This is because Peter receives the special revelation that Jesus is the Son of the living God.

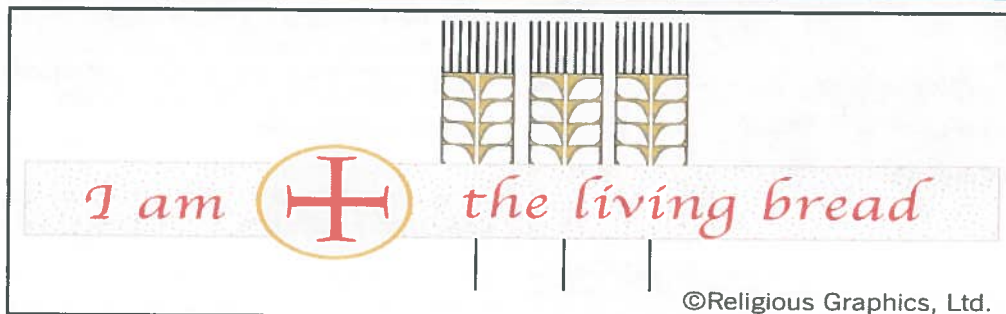
In Acts, Peter has a vision that reveals to him that Gentiles as well as Jews will be welcomed into the church. In the letters attributed to him, Peter is perceived as an elder among elders, as well as one capable of amending errant teachings. Yet Peter's also represented in Acts as a team player, working in full partnership with John and willing to accept the discernment of James when in Jerusalem. Peter's not just the boss left in charge after Jesus returns to his Father. After an early career of impulsive speech and rash behavior, Peter's been humbled, becoming a leader who appreciates that the wisest way to wield authority is to seek good counsel and faithful collaborators all along the path.



To find the job description of a modern pope, look no further than Peter's example

To find the job description of a modern pope, look no further than Peter's example. The fisherman who casts the broadest possible net, the shepherd intimately companioning the sheep, the rock upon which the structure of church depends: these are the fundamental tasks of the papacy. A pope must also be a person of deep prayer open to revelation and new insights—even spectacular ones that shake up social expectations. A pope must gather wise and collaborative counselors yet be ready to make the final call when necessary. All of this makes a Petrine foundation an essential component of Catholic authority.

Scripture: Matthew 16:16-18; Luke 5:10; John 21:1-17; Acts 1:9-16; 3:1-11; 4:1-22; 8:14; 1 Peter 5:1; 2 Peter 3:15-16



Catholic Snacks, Get Fed
Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

**Have you ever read the diary of a saint?
Many saints have left us essays, books, and other writings. But some have left us their own journals.**

Sometimes the saints feel far away. It's tempting to consider their thinking as too far above us, a mentality that we can't understand or attain. We might give up on imitating them, or—worse—start to believe that we can't become saints ourselves.

Some of these holy men and women, however, have brought their thinking down to earth for us by leaving us readable, reachable journals of their spiritual lives.

Indeed, some of these journaling saints are the ones who seem the most inaccessible—those whose lives were marked by intense mystical experiences. Their diaries offer us a wonderful way to overcome our intimidation and meet them as they really are.

Come on! Let's introduce ourselves to some of these saints.

1. **St. Thérèse of Lisieux.** St. Thérèse's spiritual memoir, *The Story of a Soul*, is a classic for Catholics. In it she recounts her childhood, her entry into Carmel and its challenges and joys, and the development and essence of her "Little Way."
2. **St. Faustina Kowalska.** Entitled *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, St. Faustina's diary was written in obedience to her spiritual director. She discusses her profound relationship with Our Lord, her conversations with Him, and His visions and messages to her regarding His Divine Mercy.
3. **St. John Paul II.** The written reflections of Pope St. John Paul II, dating from 1962 all the way to 2003, were recently published in English for the first time. In them, the Pope relates his own concerns, spiritual insights, and thoughts on his ministry from the time he was bishop of Krakow through almost the entirety of his pontificate.
4. **St. Gemma Galgani.** Like St. Faustina, St. Gemma wrote her diary out of obedience. A soul whose mystical experiences were equaled only by her intense sufferings, St. Gemma spoke with Our Lord and her guardian angel, bore the stigmata, and even had her diary stolen by the devil! (He apparently did not want us to benefit from it.) You can see the original diary—burn marks and all—at the Passionist monastery attached to the Basilica of Saints John and Paul in Rome.

Sainthood is not beyond your reach. As you read the journals of the saints, be inspired on your path to holiness and begin to imitate them with a journal of your own.

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IS YOUR MARRIAGE STRUGGLING? Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue...or have you just stopped talking altogether? Does talking about your problems only make them worse?

RETRouvaille CAN HELP YOU SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE!

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples facing difficulties in their marriage restore their connection and rebuild a loving relationship. This marriage-saving program

provides couples with actionable steps they can take to improve communication, build a stronger marriage and help them reconnect.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP...ATTEND A WEEKEND! For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program or to register for our upcoming weekend on **September 13-15** in Joliet, please call 815-246-2080, email us at JolietRegistration@helpourmarriage.org, or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Retrouvaille Chicago has a weekend scheduled for October 18-20, 2024, if you are unable to attend the September weekend in Joliet.





August 4, 2024

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 16:2-4, 12-15 | Eph 4:17, 20-24 | Jn 6:24-25

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

When have you grumbled against God instead of consenting, trusting, and believing he would see you through to a brighter future? In this first reading from Exodus, the whole Israelite community laments over their wanderings in the desert; their earthly focus on hunger and thirst leads them to believe slavery in Egypt would have been better than God's freedom for them. When we are struggling for whatever reason, it's easy to forget all that God has done for us in the past and all he desires to do for us in the future. We may not even recognize the very life-giving and life-sustaining "bread" that lays before us, much as the Israelites did not recognize the bread that lay before them in the desert. In spite of our hard-heartedness at times, however, God is truly patient; he loves us beyond measure. Just as he did not condemn the Israelites, he does not condemn us but rather, calls us back to him time and again with love and mercy.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we heard, God sends the people quail and manna - bread from heaven - to satisfy their frustrated longings while preparing them for an even greater "bread from heaven" that is still to come. In the Gospel, Jesus references this Scripture passage and clarifies that it was not Moses, but his Father who provided the bread from heaven. Jesus tells his disciples to "work for food that endures for eternal life" because he wants them to see the bigger picture. He wants them (and us!) to understand that we should not toil only for physical bread, but for the truest food that is life-giving to our souls - the food found in accomplishing the works of God by believing and following the one he sent: Jesus. We do this by following Paul's advice from the second reading and seek to "be renewed in the spirit of [our] minds," following God's way of holiness. Only in and through this conformity to Christ will we be prepared to go forth and witness to the mystery of our faith.

REFLECT This week, in thinking about how you can "accomplish the works of God," turn to Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. He tells them to put away their old self and "put on the new self, created in God's way." Examine where you might not be seeing your own manna from heaven, and refocus your efforts to give praise and thanksgiving to God for his never-ending mercy and care.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 4, 2024: Ex 16:2-4,12-15 | Ps 78:3-4,23-25,54 | Eph 4:17,20-24 | Jn 6:24-35

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus, the bread of heaven. Amen.

Christ nourishes our hungry and thirsty souls with His own Body and Blood.

Jesus loved using simple examples to teach about Himself, the way to holiness, and about heaven. He knew everyone would understand the natural experience of hunger and thirst for food and drink and how it affects people's lives. A baby cries when it is time to nurse. Children get fussy before dinnertime... sometimes adults do, too! Students and workers who do not eat breakfast might notice that their concentration and work performance suffer. Those who go shopping on an empty stomach tend to make unhealthy choices and do more impulse buying.

Hunger can affect mental health and cognitive abilities, causing fatigue, depression, and irritability. On the other hand, those who maintain a healthy, balanced diet on a regular schedule feel better, have more energy, lead more active lives, have fewer diseases, have happier moods, and usually live longer lives.

Beyond hunger and thirst for food and drink, many naturally crave other things that can shape their lives for the good or the bad. Some have a strong desire for acceptance, popularity, power, control, pleasure, or wealth. These powerful forces of hunger can destroy us through things like obsessive gambling, drugs, alcohol, sex, and other addictions.

Jesus sought to help the crowds following Him to

Capernaum make a new spiritual connection to satisfy their hungry hearts and souls. He wanted them to understand the real meaning behind the manna in the desert and the miracle of the loaves and fishes. The Father had sent Him to nourish our souls as heavenly food. His wholesome grace would give us the power to avoid temptations, satisfy our unhealthy passions, and draw us to holiness.



Christ is the Bread of Life sent from God to feed their souls and ours. It is a gift of the Father to draw believers to Jesus. All that is required is that we truly believe that He is the Son of God and follow Him and His teachings with our whole hearts and lives. We must sincerely believe in and receive the gift of His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. This holy food for our souls will nourish us in faith, hope, and love and lead us to eternal life.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Are you hungry for Jesus in your life, or do you hunger for something else?
- † How is the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist transforming your life in Communion with Him?
- † How does receiving Christ in the Holy Eucharist help us in today's challenging world?